



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FEDERAL WATERS OFF TEXAS CLOSED TO SHRIMPING ON MAY 15, 2003

NOAA Fisheries announces that Federal waters from 9 to 200 nautical miles off Texas will close to shrimp trawling at 30 minutes after official sunset on May 15, 2003, corresponding to the time that Texas closes its waters to shrimp trawling.

The shrimp fishery is closed annually off Texas to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest, and to prevent waste of brown shrimp that would otherwise be discarded due to their small size.

The Texas closure ranges from 45 to 90 days. The closing and/or opening date of the Texas closure are based on the results of biological sampling by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. NOAA Fisheries will re-open Federal waters off Texas when the state of Texas opens its territorial waters. Historically, the opening has been on or about July 15.

If there is a need to adjust the July 15 date for the termination of the closure, NOAA Fisheries will announce the revised opening date.

Fishery violations may be reported during business hours (M-F 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) to NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Region Law Enforcement Division at 727-570-5344, or after hours by calling the hotline at 1-800-853-1964.

To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available, leave a message, and we will return your call. Information also is available on our homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.